



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7350 | FAX (517) 373.9228

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/

For Immediate Release
February 22, 2006

Contact: Christopher Kelley
517-373-0051

Sen. Patterson hosts Senate Education Committee to hear local views on graduation requirements

LANSING — At the invitation of Sen. Bruce Patterson, the Senate Education Committee will come to Wayne County on Feb. 27 to listen to area residents about proposed high school graduation requirements.

“My aim is to make it easier for people to say what they think about this important education proposal, without having to go all the way to Lansing. This proposal has many positive aspects, but I want to hear more from Wayne County parents and teachers,” said Patterson, 7th District. “I welcome everyone to come and share their views on this potential change to the education Michigan schoolchildren are receiving.”

The hearing will begin at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 27, at Brownstown Middle School, 20135 Inkster Road, in Brownstown Township. Parents, teachers and local school administrators are invited to testify. All are welcome to listen and learn.

The Senate is considering a proposal from the state superintendent and State Board of Education that would implement graduation requirements beyond the half year of civics class now required. The plan would require students to take certain courses and a certain number of years, or equivalent credit, in different subjects:

- Four of English;
- Four of math, including Algebra I and II, and geometry;
- Three of science, including a year of biology, and either physics or chemistry;
- Three of social science, including half-year each of civics and economics, and a year each of U.S. and world history;
- Two of foreign language;
- One of health and physical education; and,
- One of visual or performing arts.

Michigan is among a handful of states that have minimal statewide graduation requirements. In Michigan, graduation requirements are left to local school boards.

###